

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**BA-0982**  
**Vernon School**  
**18631 Vernon Road**  
**Vernon, Baltimore County**  
**Ca. 1865**  
**Private**

The Vernon School, constructed circa 1865, dates to a period of significant growth in Vernon (originally called Mount Vernon or Gemmils)) in Election District Seven of Baltimore County. The school was originally built on land acquired by James Monroe, as the Vernon Baptist Church. The first Vernon School was located nearby. By 1882, the church building was sold to the County School Commissioners for use as the area school, replacing the previous school. By 1933, the school was again owned by a church. The nearby Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church used the property as a hall. In 1963, the building was purchased by Gerard A. Harrington and converted into a dwelling. Subsequent owners of the dwelling include Helen D. Lewis and Elwood Troyer.

Located on a slight grassy rise at the corner of White Hall and Vernon Roads, the vernacular Vernon School building presents a rectangular form. The wood frame building, which sits on a stone foundation, features a front-gabled standing-seam metal roof, aluminum siding, an aluminum-clad boxed cornice with returns, and an exterior end brick stretcher bond chimney. According to previous MHT documentation, the building originally featured a central double-leaf entry with gabled overhang and open bell tower, as revealed in circa 1920 photographs. At present, the façade, which faces northeast, features a shed-roofed partially enclosed three-quarter-width one-story addition with an off-center single-leaf wooden three-light door to both the addition and main block. The addition is clad in aluminum siding and sits on a poured concrete foundation. The building, which measure four bays deep, is pierced with 1/1 wooden windows, some of which have been infilled with flush boards.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0982

### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic      Vernon School, Second Mount Vernon School, Vernon Baptist Church, Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church  
other      Harrington House

### 2. Location

street and number      18631 Vernon Road      not for publication  
city, town      Vernon      vicinity  
county      Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name      Elwood W. Troyer  
street and number      18631 Vernon Road      telephone  
city, town      White Hall      state      MD      zip code      21161-9726

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.      Baltimore County Courthouse      tax map and parcel      18/48  
city, town      Towson      liber      14268      folio      148

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing      Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> social
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
			<input type="checkbox"/> sites
			<input type="checkbox"/> structures
			<input type="checkbox"/> objects
			<input type="checkbox"/> Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>1</u>

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0982

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located on a slight grassy rise at the corner of White Hall and Vernon Roads, the vernacular style Vernon School building, constructed circa 1865, presents a rectangular form. The wood frame building, originally used as a church, was later converted to a school prior to use as a dwelling in 1963. The building, which sits on a stone foundation, features a front-gabled standing-seam metal roof, aluminum siding, an aluminum-clad boxed cornice with returns, and an exterior end brick stretcher bond chimney. According to previous MHT documentation, the building originally featured a central double-leaf entry with gabled overhang and open bell tower, as revealed in circa 1920 photographs. At present, the façade, which faces northeast, features a shed-roofed partially enclosed three-quarter-width one-story addition with an off-center single-leaf wooden three-light door to both the addition and main block. The addition is clad in aluminum siding and sits on a poured concrete foundation. The building, which measure four bays deep, is pierced with 1/1 wooden windows, some of which have been infilled with flush boards. 1/1 windows also pierce the gable peak and façade addition.

Located to the southwest of the building stands a circa 1970 non-historic garage. The rectangular structure features concrete block construction, a front-gabled asphalt-shingled roof, gable peak aluminum siding, a boxed wooden cornice and central roll-up corrugated metal door.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0982

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1865, 1882, 1933, 1963 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1865 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Vernon School, constructed circa 1865, dates to a period of significant growth in Vernon (originally called Mount Vernon or Gemmills)) in Election District Seven of Baltimore County. The school was originally built on land acquired by James Monroe, as the Vernon Baptist Church. The first Vernon School was located nearby. By 1882, the church building was sold to the County School Commissioners for use as the area school, replacing the previous school. By 1933, the school was again owned by a church. The nearby Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church used the property as a hall. In 1963, the building was purchased by Gerard A. Harrington and converted into a dwelling. Subsequent owners of the dwelling include Helen D. Lewis and Elwood Troyer.

The small village, located at the crossroads of Vernon and White Hall Roads, near the first Mine Run, was located a mile from White Hall. The village, by 1878, boasted the Methodist Episcopal Church, this Baptist Church, a number of farms, and a school building which is no longer extant. The seventh district was the largest and most populated region of the county in latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Located near the Pennsylvania and Harford lines in the northeast part of Baltimore County, the area historically consisted of rolling hills, transversed by major transportation corridors. The cultivation of wheat, corn, oats, fruit, dairy, and the breeding of cattle supported the residents and neighboring town of White Hall, a major stops for the Northern Central Railway. The communities are located less than twenty-five miles north of Baltimore City. In 1881, the village of White Hall was home to approximately 100 people. Located in a prominent dairy farming region, it was one of the principal milk stations along the railway, shipping over 300 gallons of milk daily to Baltimore. On Gunpowder Falls, just above White Hall, was a manila paper mill owned and operated by A. J. Burke. The two villages, both of which were surrounded by rural agricultural farms devoted primarily to dairy production. The railroad and their close proximity to York Road, the major north-south transportation artery, rendered the small towns as centers of trade.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*, (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881), pp. 872-874.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0982

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County from the Earliest Period to the Present Day, Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881; reprinted edition Salem, MA: Higginson Book Company, nd.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property ~~Unknown~~ 1.313 acs.

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Norrisville

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since circa 1865, the Vernon School building has been associated with the property at 18631 Vernon Road as noted on Tax Map 18 and parcel 48 and recorded in Tax Record Liber 14268, folio 148.

## 11. Form Prepared by

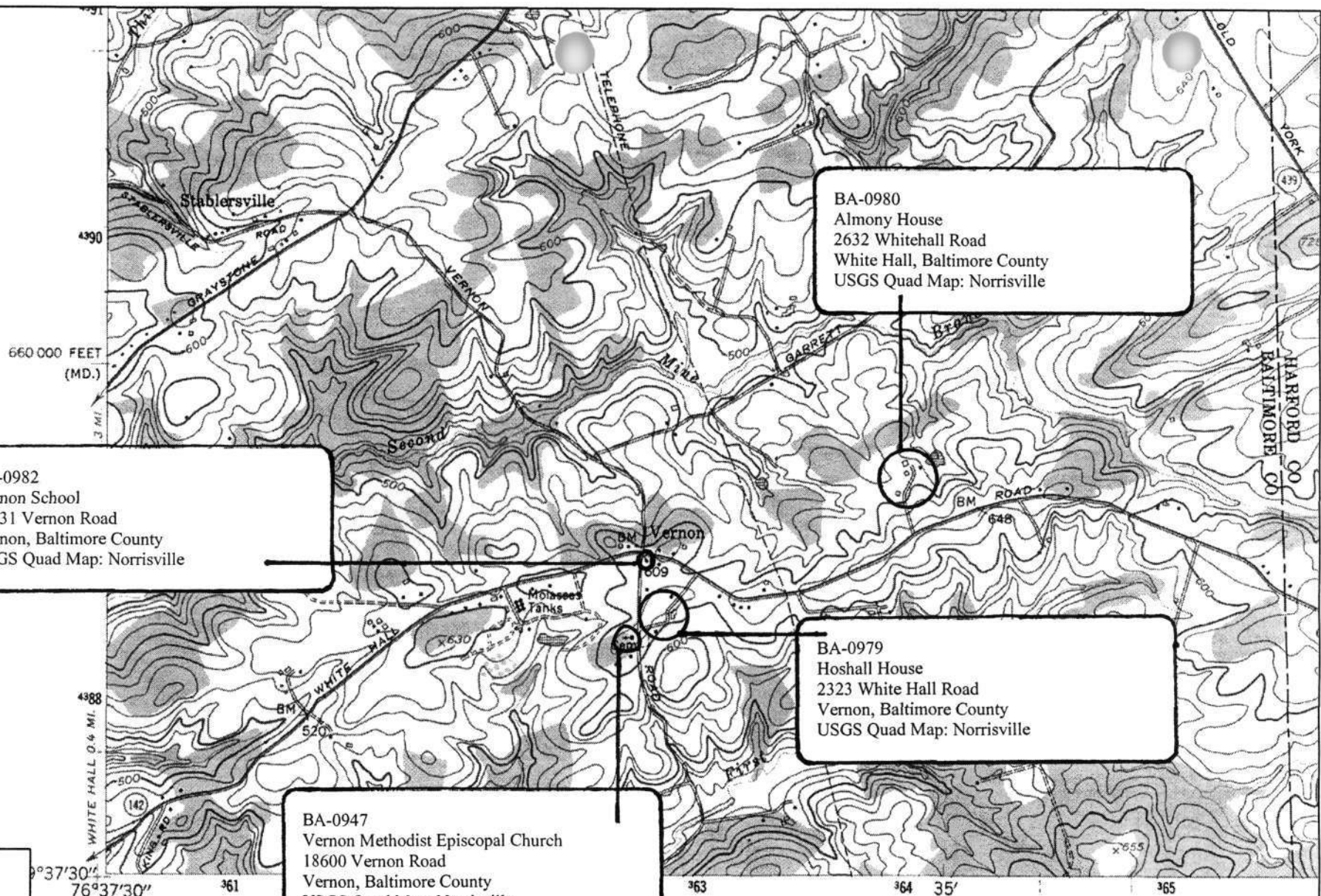
name/title	J. Bunting and A. L. McDonald, Architectural Historians		
organization	E.H.T. Tracerics, Inc.	date	April 10, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600





BA-0982  
Vernon School  
18631 Vernon Road  
Vernon, Baltimore County  
USGS Quad Map: Norrisville

BA-0980  
Almony House  
2632 Whitehall Road  
White Hall, Baltimore County  
USGS Quad Map: Norrisville

BA-0979  
Hoshall House  
2323 White Hall Road  
Vernon, Baltimore County  
USGS Quad Map: Norrisville

BA-0947  
Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church  
18600 Vernon Road  
Vernon, Baltimore County  
USGS Quad Map: Norrisville

Mapped by the Army  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and USSCS  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field check 1944  
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1956 - 1957  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Maryland coordinate system,  
and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks

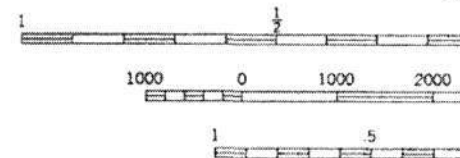
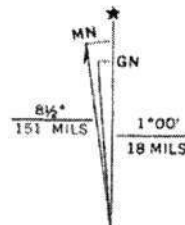
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NORRISVILLE

9708

FORD  
11 SW

11° W



CONTOUR  
NATIONAL GEODETIC



BA-0982

VERNON SCHOOL

18631 VERNON ROAD, WHITE HALL  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND  
TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

WEST CORNER, LOOKING EAST





BA-0982

VERNON SCHOOL

18631 VERNON ROAD, WHITE HALL

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

NORTH CORNER, LOOKING SOUTH



BA-0982

VERNON SCHOOL

18631 VERNON ROAD, WHITE HALL

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

SOUTH CORNER, LOOKING NORTH

3 of 4



BA-0982

VERNON SCHOOL

18631 VERNON ROAD, WHITE HALL  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

GARAGE, LOOKING EAST



**THE VERNON SCHOOL** - 1865 - 18631 Vernon Road, southeast corner of White Hall Road, Vernon village. Small, functional style white frame building covered with aluminum siding; gable roofed. It had been designed as a rectangular building three bays deep, set on a stone foundation; there was no vestibule, but dual doors topped by shed roofing or hoods opened directly into the interior. There had been an open belfry, shown in photos of the 1920s. This structure began as a Baptist Church on a lot acquired in 1865 from James R. Moore. In 1882, the trustees sold the church to the School Commissioners in a deed that mentioned "Mount Vernon School," which is shown in the 1877 atlas on the opposite side of the road. That atlas showed the present building as "Baptist Church". It apparently replaced the earlier school entirely. The Board of Education in 1933 sold to the trustees of Vernon M.E. Church, which used it as a hall, finally selling in 1963 to Gerard A. Harrington and wife, who remodeled it into a dwelling. Vernon Methodist Church had held its organizational meetings in this building before its conversion to a school. Good condition.